

and operations. Full warning has been given, and time is running out.

The Afghan people, however, are the victims of oppression, famine, and misrule. Many refugees from that unfortunate nation are on the move, and sadly, many Afghans are on the verge of starvation.

America respects the Afghan people, their long tradition, and their proud independence, and we will help them in this time of confusion and crisis in their country.

America has long been the largest source of food and humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan. This week I announced an additional \$320 million in aid to the Afghan people, to those within Afghanistan and those who have fled across borders. Despite efforts by the Taliban to disrupt these critical aid shipments, we will deliver food and seeds, vaccines and medicine by truck and even by draft animals. Conditions permitting, we will bring help directly to the people of Afghanistan by airdrops.

This aid will help Afghans make it through the upcoming winter. For the longer term, I urge Congress to make funds available so that one day the United States can contribute, along with other friends of

Afghanistan, to the reconstruction and development of that troubled nation.

Helping people in great need is a central part of the Jewish, Christian, and Islamic traditions, as well as many other faiths. It is also a central part of the American tradition. Even as we fight evil regimes, we are generous to the people they oppress. Following World War II, America fed and rebuilt Japan and Germany, and their people became some of our closest friends in the world.

In the struggle ahead, we will act in accordance with American ideals. We're offering help and friendship to the Afghan people. It is their Taliban rulers and the terrorists they harbor who have much to fear.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 2:50 p.m. on October 5 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on October 6. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on October 5 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Remarks at the National Fallen Firefighters Memorial in Emmitsburg, Maryland

October 7, 2001

Thank you very much. Joe, thank you for those kind words, and thank you for your outstanding service in a difficult time for our great land.

I want to thank Hal Bruno and the directors of the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation for the outstanding leadership they have shown in recognizing America's heroes.

I want to say thanks to the members of the Maryland delegation who are here, Senator Sarbanes, Senator Mikulski, Con-

gressman Hoyer, and Congressman Bartlett. I want to thank you all for being here. I want to thank the local officials who are here. I want to thank the firefighters from all around America who have come to comfort the families of the fallen.

I want to say hello to the moms and dads and husbands and wives and sons and daughters of the fallen. Laura and I are honored to be here with you today as we remember the lives and sacrifices of your brave relatives.

Two years ago this weekend, I attended a memorial ceremony in New York City honoring fallen firefighters, and standing nearby were Chief Peter Ganci and many others who are now gone. None of us on that day could have imagined what was to come, the scale of the emergency, the enormity of the danger, the magnitude of the evil. Yet, each one of those firefighters felt a strong calling and knew its risks.

On September 11th, that calling led them into burning towers on a mission of rescue. Within a single hour, more than 300 firefighters were lost. And our Nation still mourns. They did not live to know who had caused the destruction or why. They only knew their duty, and that was to go in, to follow the faintest cry, to search for the trapped and helpless, and to save those who could be saved.

A few days ago, one New Yorker described firefighters as “the kinds of guys you look up to.” Every one of you here knew exactly what he meant. The courage and loss we saw in New York is found in every community that has laid a firefighter to rest. Hardly a week passes in America when a career or a volunteer firefighter does not fall in the line of duty.

Firefighting is a hard and demanding job, and it may at any moment send a person to the high heat or thick smoke. It’s been said that a firefighter’s first act of bravery is taking the oath to serve. And all of them serve knowing that one day they may not come home.

Today we honor 101 who did not come home. They were all people who accepted the dangers of firefighting and were last seen on duty. We add their names to this national monument. We do so with pride and with deep gratitude.

The Nation pays respect to them for their service and their sacrifice. And we respect you, their families, for your sacrifice, for the heavy burden you carry to this day. The McCormicks of Arkansas, the Hendricks of Kentucky, the Pescatores of Pennsylvania each lost a son who was not

yet 20 years old. The families of Bo Rathbun of Wyoming, Jim Reavis of Missouri, Fred Brain and Pete Scannell of New York, Kenneth Jesse of Pennsylvania lost loved ones who were willing to serve even in the latter years of life.

Many were taken during the fullest days of life, that time when we are needed most by the people we love. Kimberly Smith of Texas was engaged to be married. Robert Crump of Colorado was home after honorable service in the Marine Corps. Marvin Bartholemew of Florida had paid his way through college and was working his way up the ranks of the department.

Roger Bookout was 34 years old when he died, and he was a loving dad. He had a great outlook, and it was summed up on a sign he kept on his locker: “Love your wife; love your life.” All these firefighters loved life. And Scripture teaches, there is no greater love than to lay down one’s life for another.

Sometimes a person cannot know for sure what mark he or she has left on the world. That will never be said of the people we remember today or of their kind. They were strong and caring people, brave and upright. You could always count on them. You could always look up to them.

This firefighters monument belongs to the Nation and represents a national loss. The firefighters belong to you, and I know that loss can never be recovered.

A fireman’s widow recently said that her husband was her hero, “and there’s nothing I wouldn’t do to have my hero here.” That same feeling is shared by many here today, and time won’t ever take it away. But the years can bring comfort, and they can bring hope. You’ll always know that your hero died in the service of others. You can give one another the strength to go on. You can find the comfort of God, who is with us especially in sorrow. And you can know today that your loved ones are not forgotten. They hold an honored, cherished place in the memories of their comrades and an

honored place in the memory of our country.

God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:48 a.m. at the memorial on the National Emergency Training Center campus. In his remarks, he referred to Joe M. Allbaugh, Director, Fed-

eral Emergency Management Agency; Hal Bruno, chairman, National Fallen Firefighters Foundation; and Peter Ganci, Jr., chief, Fire Department-City of New York, who was killed while responding to the September 11 attacks on the World Trade Center.

Address to the Nation Announcing Strikes Against Al Qaida Training Camps and Taliban Military Installations in Afghanistan *October 7, 2001*

Good afternoon. On my orders, the United States military has begun strikes against Al Qaida terrorist training camps and military installations of the Taliban regime in Afghanistan. These carefully targeted actions are designed to disrupt the use of Afghanistan as a terrorist base of operations and to attack the military capability of the Taliban regime.

We are joined in this operation by our staunch friend Great Britain. Other close friends, including Canada, Australia, Germany, and France, have pledged forces as the operation unfolds. More than 40 countries in the Middle East, Africa, Europe, and across Asia have granted air transit or landing rights. Many more have shared intelligence. We are supported by the collective will of the world.

More than 2 weeks ago, I gave Taliban leaders a series of clear and specific demands: Close terrorist training camps; hand over leaders of the Al Qaida network; and return all foreign nationals, including American citizens, unjustly detained in your country. None of these demands were met. And now the Taliban will pay a price. By destroying camps and disrupting communications, we will make it more difficult for the terror network to train new recruits and coordinate their evil plans.

Initially, the terrorists may burrow deeper into caves and other entrenched hiding

places. Our military action is also designed to clear the way for sustained, comprehensive, and relentless operations to drive them out and bring them to justice.

At the same time, the oppressed people of Afghanistan will know the generosity of America and our allies. As we strike military targets, we'll also drop food, medicine, and supplies to the starving and suffering men and women and children of Afghanistan.

The United States of America is a friend to the Afghan people, and we are the friends of almost a billion worldwide who practice the Islamic faith. The United States of America is an enemy of those who aid terrorists and of the barbaric criminals who profane a great religion by committing murder in its name.

This military action is a part of our campaign against terrorism, another front in a war that has already been joined through diplomacy, intelligence, the freezing of financial assets, and the arrests of known terrorists by law enforcement agents in 38 countries. Given the nature and reach of our enemies, we will win this conflict by the patient accumulation of successes, by meeting a series of challenges with determination and will and purpose.

Today we focus on Afghanistan, but the battle is broader. Every nation has a choice to make. In this conflict, there is no neutral